

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04758 050919Z

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS/ PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE NEW ROK OFFER CONCERNING CONGRESSIONAL ACCESS TO
FORMER AMBASSADOR KIM DONG-JO

REF: STATE 139905

1. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING MY RETURN, I CALLED ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER AFTERNOON JUNE 5. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS INTERESTED IN MY REACTION TO THE FRASER COMMITTEE HEARING AND I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE HIM A BRIEF OVERVIEW, INCLUDING THE OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED TO PRESENT A BALANCED VIEW OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE ROKG. I INFORMED HIM THAT IN MY VIEW THE MOOD IN WASHINGTON WAS MUCH IMPROVED, WHICH IN LARGE PART ACCOUNTED FOR THE RELATIVELY MODERATE TONE OF THE HOUSE RESOLUTION. WITH MALICE AFORETHOUGHT, I GAVE CONSIDERABLE CREDIT TO THE COOPERATIVE POSITION TAKEN BY THE ROKG. UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS.

2. I THEN TOLD HIM THAT IN MY VIEW IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL IF THE ROKG COULD MAKE A FURTHER EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE KIM DONG-JO AFFAIR. I STRESSED THAT SUCH A MOVE, EVEN IF UNACCEPTABLE TO JAWORSKI, WOULD REINFORCE THE COOPERATIVE POSITION TAKEN BY THE ROKG.

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3. I THEN TOLD HIM THAT IN MY VIEW THE INFORMAL PROPOSAL WHICH HE HAD MADE TO ME JUST BEFORE MY DEPARTURE, IN WHICH I WOULD SERVE AS AN INTERMEDIARY, WOULD SEEM TO BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE STEP TO TAKE AT THIS JUNCTURE. I URGED THAT AMBASSADOR KIM BE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE SUCH A PROPOSAL TO JAWORSKI WHEN HE MEETS WITH HIM ON JUNE 6. I TOLD THE

FOREIGN MINISTER THAT IF SUCH A PROPOSAL WERE POSSIBLE THE ROK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON SHOULD ALSO MAKE IT KNOWN TO THE SENATE SIDE, POSSIBLE THROUGH DAN SWILLINGER.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR HIM TOTAKE ACTION IN THIS MATTER. HE MUST BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL TO INSURE THAT HIS ACTIONS DID NOT APPEAR TO BE KNUCKLING UNDER TO U.S. PRESSURE, CONTRARY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION. HE ADDED THAT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WAS STILL CONSIDERING COMMITTEE HEARINGS TO QUESTION HIM ON THE HOUSE RESOLUTION. I RESPONDED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN QUITE CLEAR ON THE VIENNA CONVENTION AND ITS VIEW THAT THE HOUSE RESOLUTION WAS INAPPROPRIATE. I URGED HIM NEVERTHELESS TO TAKE THIS FURTHER STEP IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE, ADDING THAT THE ROKG WOULD HAVE LOST NOTHING BUT WOULD GAIN IN TERMS OF CONTINUED EFFORTS AT COOPERATION TO SEEK A REASONABLE SOLUTION COMPATIBLE WITH THE LIMITATIONS OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION.

5. THE FOREIGN MINISTER GAVE NO DIRECT RESPONSE TO MY URGING. IN CLOSING HE MADE A POINT OF TELLING ME THAT PRESIDENT PARK HAD BEEN VERY PLEASED WITH DR. BRZEZINSKI'S VISIT AND THE DISCUSSIONS THEY HAD HAD AND THAT HE HAD FOUND THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER VERY POSITIVE IN BOTH TONE
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AND CONTENT. HE ASKED THE REACTION OF THE BRZEZINSKI PARTY TO THE VISIT AND I ASSURED HIM, AND ASKED HIM TO CONVEY TO THE PRESIDENT, THE FACT THAT THEY WERE VERY PLEASED WITH THEIR DUSCUSSIONS AND VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE OBSERVABLE PROGRESS BEING MADE BY THE ROK. IT APPEARED TO ME THAT THE TRIP WAS POSITIVE IN ALL ASPECTS AND MAY WELL BE A WATERSHED IN IMPROVING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.
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